

Jared Entwistle  
Topsham

Dear Rep. Grohoski, Sen. Bennet, and Honorable Members of the Committee

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I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing for LD 1541 and appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of An Act To Support and Improve Municipal Recycling Programs and Save Taxpayer Money.

My name is Jared Entwistle and I am a founding member and former owner of Flight Deck Brewing, a craft brewery in Brunswick. While I cannot speak for Flight Deck Brewing, I can say that when I was an owner, I spent a fair amount of my time registering product labels and paying into the states bottle bill program. From this experience, I can say that the bottle bill has little effect on business revenues. While it's true the bottle bill does end up costing breweries about 2 cents per bottle, it's hardly an amount that is going to break or even substantially harm a business, even for a startup company like ours. I believe the current legislation for extended producer responsibility, LD 1541, would have even less of an effect on Maine-based businesses. The wording to exempt businesses with revenues less than \$2 million or those that produce less than 1 ton of packaging material in a year ensures that a large portion of small Maine businesses wouldn't be adversely affected. For businesses producing under 15 tons per year and subject to this law, a maximum fee of 25 cents per pound should, like the bottle bill, hardly be enough to significantly harm a business. While this fee isn't going to harm a mid-sized business, it can help to make sustainable packaging options more cost-competitive while raising money to help Maine municipalities deal with their waste issues. A recent report from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection showed that Maine has been losing ground on its waste reduction goals. It is clear that these waste issues are not going to go away on their own. In a state whose state motto is "I lead," I can see no better endeavor than to be the first to boldly strike at the heart of our waste issues and enact legislation that deters the largest producers from overwhelming our waste management systems.

Thank you,

Jared Entwistle